

11 August 1960

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Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for  
the State-JCS Meeting, 12 August 1960, Agenda Item 9

Subject: U.S. Assistance in the Training of German  
Non-NATO Forces, Specifically Border Forces (U)

Reason for Discussion - On 15 June 1960 the German Minister of Defense, Mr. Strauss, raised the question in a discussion with the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Gates, as to whether the Germans might be briefed and offered training with respect to U.S. Special Warfare activities of a commando or guerrilla nature. He felt this was very important to German readiness. This would be done with territorial forces so that NATO-committed forces would not be diverted to deal with special border problems involving East Germany. Mr. Gates stated that the U.S. was prepared to assist in training Special Forces type personnel through mobile training teams, through the units of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) located at Bad Tolz, Germany, and through officer level courses at the U.S. Army Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

- On 19 July 1960, Department of State requested American Embassy, Paris, to secure SACEUR's opinion on desirability of U.S. assistance in such training. SACEUR stated that from a military point of view it would be desirable to assist in training these special German forces, provided that such training is accomplished without violating either Western European Union or NATO ground rules. When American Embassy, London was requested to furnish their views, reply indicated that British Government would be deeply concerned if U.S. agreed without prior consultation with them as British opinion is already suspicious that Strauss may attempt to circumvent restrictions placed upon German military developments by Brussels Treaty.

Background - The primary mission of U.S. Army Special Forces is to organize, equip, train, support, and maintain operational control of indigenous guerrilla forces in order to interdict enemy lines of communication and to attack his military installations.

- The U.S. position is to encourage the development of Special Forces type capabilities within the armed forces of host nations having U.S. MAAGs or Missions in accordance with and in support of theater plans.

- Indigenous Special Forces units have been developed or are programmed for Taiwan, Thailand, South Vietnam, Korea, Laos, Japan and the Philippines.

Comments and Recommendations - A request by West Germany for this training assistance should be initiated through MAAG Germany in accordance with existing JCS policy (Paragraph 8a (12), Enclosure "C" to JCS 1844/274).

- After the development of a German Special Forces unit; combined training of U.S. and German Special Forces would be mutually beneficial with the ultimate goal of employing U.S. - German Special Forces operational detachments in East Germany in event of war, or in a crisis in the Berlin area.

- The Unconventional Warfare Branch, J-5, recommends that the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, support the development of a Special Forces capability in West Germany as modified by SACEUR's reply.

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